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Aug. 31, 1981

George C. LANNON
Consul
W/W: JOHN J. SULLIVAN

EXCISE

E.O. (1.2) 231

FILES

A call was received 8/30/81 by Post.I. The caller [redacted] Rivera Roman, Tel. 28 10 73, of Colonia Delicias, Comasagua #14, [redacted] informed us that a few weeks ago in early August while he was driving on the highway from Santa Tecla to Santa Ana, he saw a body on the side of the road. He stopped to investigate and discovered a beheaded male body that resembled the description of John J. Sullivan except it did not have a beard. B6

I called the number [redacted] gave us but the person who answered did not know Mr. [redacted] B6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 1 4 1984
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 6, 1981

Mrs. Lorraine Sullivan

[redacted]

EXCISE

Dear Mrs. Sullivan:

I was pleased to have had the opportunity to speak with you last Thursday, as was Robert Driscoll, our new chief of the political section in El Salvador, who was en route to his new assignment. As I told you, we have no news of your son John. We have, however, tried to keep the case in the forefront of official Salvadoran consciousness. I wish to inform you the case was raised in the conversation in New York between President Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador and Secretary of State Haig.

President Duarte was in New York in connection with his speech before the United Nations. Present at the meeting with Secretary Haig, in addition to Ambassador Hinton, were Stephen W. Bosworth, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs; Fidel Chavez Mena, Foreign Minister of El Salvador; Colonel Eugenio Vides Casanova, Commander of El Salvador's National Guard; and Mauricio Rosales Rivera, El Salvador's Ambassador to the United Nations.

President Duarte was asked if there were any developments in your son's case. It was emphasized that there was great interest on the part of the American public, Congress, and the Department of State in the matter. President Duarte said that very unfortunately there were no developments. He said that within half an hour of John's disappearance he had sent officers directly from his own office to the scene, but "It was as though Mr. Sullivan had vanished from the earth." The President stated that an extensive investigation divulged not a single clue. In this lack of success, he compared the case to the investigation following the death of Archbishop Romero: "No one saw anything or knew anything." President Duarte said that on one occasion a body was discovered dressed somewhat similarly to the way John was described to have been dressed. To verify the identity, he sent the Secretary General of the Maryknoll Order, who positively identified the body as that of another person, not your son.

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There seemed little doubt to those present at the meeting that President Duarte was seized of the case. He certainly knows, as do all of the Salvadoran officials present at the meeting, that the U.S. Government is extremely interested in whatever can be done to shed light on John's disappearance.

May I take this occasion to say how deeply sorry we are that you have experienced this uncertainty and heartache.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Thomas
El Salvador Desk
Bureau of Inter-American Affairs

cc: Congresswoman Marge Roukema

bcc: Ambassador Hinton, San Salvador
Mr. Eddy, USUN New York
ARA ✓

drafted by:USUN:John Eddy
10/5/81
approved by: ARA/CEN:CAThomas (and for Ambassador Hinton)

cleared by:ARA/CEN:CJohnstone

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EXCISE

- Si señor, mira, dígame todo lo que tú sabes.

- Bueno, la verdad es que yo estuve platicanto con alguien que es de las personas que asesinan a los que aparecen decapitados. Entonces, yo no sabía que él, el trabajo de él es ese. Luego, me llamó la atención porque había salido en el periódico desde hace varios días de que sospechaban de que alguien de la Embajada había ido a Santa Ana para verificar de una persona muerta allá que tendría que ser el mismo cuerpo del Sr. Sullivan. A los días fue que ví a este amigo yo y me dijo que de sí realmente ellos habían tenido que ver en eso, no directamente él sino la agrupación de él.

- ¿Y tú sabes ~~xxxxxde~~ él? ¿Y tú sabes algo de él?

- Así es. Mire la verdad es que es muy amigo mío él, y no puedo si no hay garantías para él.

- Bueno, entiendo. Mira, ¿me puedes dar tu nombre o algo así y quizá ...

- La verdad es que yo necesito garantías para él porque él en lo particular es muy amigo mío.

- Sí, yo entiendo

- Lo mismo que garantías para mí también. Porque si empiezan a investigar y saben que, si él sabe que la única persona a la que le comentó fue a mí, entonces,

- Yo sólo te pido que si tú me puedes dar tu nombre o un nombre que tú quieras y un número donde ~~xxx~~ podamos llamarte o ~~xxx~~ algo así para hacer una reunión con ud. o algo así, una cita.

De acuerdo, pero ~~xxxx~~

- esto sin ningún compromiso. Yo no quiero ninguna cosa, ¿verdad?. Es que yo no tengo teléfono.

- Bueno, un teléfono de un amigo o algo así o de una casa que ~~xxxx~~ tú puedas confiar, que puedan preguntar por ud.

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- Anjá. [redacted] No estoy muy enterado si ese es el número realmente

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[redacted] o algo así. B6

- ¿Y me puedes dar un nombre para que podamos, tú sabes, si te llaman o algo así para que pregunten por tí o algo así.

- Entonces que pregunten por [redacted] No-es-ningún-nombre-ficticio B6 Ese es mi apellido, todo el mundo me conoce así. No es ningún nombre fictidio sino que es mi nombre, apellido correcto.

- Bueno, yo só[illegible]ije eso para que no hubiera problema con ud. o con cualquier otro.

- Allí en la hora de que me llamen?

- Si, para que si piden por ud. y dicen que son de la Embajada.

- Ah, para que no vayan a sospechar nada. Bueno, entonces mejor llame al [redacted] B6 Como le digo, yo sólo sé quien es él, donde trabaja, esa persona no estuvo directamente en eso ¿verdad? sino que sí del grupo al que él pertenece. Ahora, eso habría que, a lo mejor se podría platicar nuevamente con él, trataré ~~xxxx~~ la manera de ver cómo me comunico con él para ver qué más se puede saber. Entonces, lo que yo quería saber primero ~~xxx~~ si uds. estaban interesados todavía quieren averiguar algo sobre el paradero. Entonces este último número que me llamen de [redacted] B6

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TRANSLATION

RECORDED
--REGORD-OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

--Yes... Tell me all you know.

--Well, the truth is, I was talking with someone who belongs to the groups who assassinate those who are decapitated. At that time I dind't know that this xxxxxxxxxx this was his type of work. Then I got curious because I had read in a newspaper that there had been suspicions for xxx some timexxxx, that someone from the Embassy had gone to Santa Ana to verify whether the body of a person there (in Santa Ana) was that of Mr. Sullivan. Some days later I saw this friend and he told me that yes, they had really had something to do with that, not directly but the group to which he belongs.

--And do you know where he is? Do you know anything about him?

--It is so. Look, the truth is that he is a very good frind of mine, and I xxxx can't if there are no xxxxxxxxxx guarantees for him.

--Well, I understand. Look, can you tell me his hame or something like that and maybe...

--The truth is that I need guarantees for him because he is a personal friend of mine.

--Yes, I understand.

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--I also need guarantees for myself. Because if you start xxxxt investigating and they learn--and he knows that the only person with whom he commented this was me--then...

--I am only asking if you can xxxxxxxxxxx tell me your name, or any name name you choose and a number where we can call you or something like that, to agree on a meeting.

--Agreed, but this is without any commitment. I don't want anything... it is that I don't have a telephone.

--Well, give the phone number of a friend or something like that, of a house which you can trust, where you may be called.

--(Yes). Number [redacted] I am not too sure that this is the xxxxx right number, or (maybe) [redacted] or something like that. B6

--And can you give me a name, you know, a name to ask for you or something like that?

--Then you can ask for [redacted] That is my surname, everybody knows me by that name. It is not a fictitious name, it is my own name, my proper surname. B6

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--Well, I only said that so that there would be no problems for you or for anybody else.

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--There at the time when you call me?

--Yes, so that if they ask about you and they say they are from the Embassy.

--Ah, but don't let them suspect anything. Well, it is better thay you call [redacted] As I told you, I only know who he is, where he works; that person was not directly involved in that, right? But rather, the group to which he belongs. Now then, perhaps it might be possible to alk with him. I will try to see how I can get in touch with ~~x~~ him to see what else I can learn. Then, what I would like to know first~~x~~~~x~~x is whether you are still interested in learning about the whereabouts (of Sullivan?). Then you can call me at the last ~~x~~~~x~~x number [redacted]

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